

Serial No. 10/729,864
Wakefield, et al.
Filed December 5, 2003

Response to Office Action
Examiner: Angela M. Lie
Group Art Unit: 2163

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: Todd D. Wakefield and David L. Bean
TITLE: Methods and Products for Merging Codes...
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EXAMINER NAME: Angela M. Lie
GROUP ART UNIT: 2163

Commissioner for Patents
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REMARKS

A terminal disclaimer is attached to overcome the double patenting rejection.

The section 101 rejection has been addressed through the amendment above. In particular, a tangible result is recited in the claims. Further, the result is useful in that it can be utilized in a data analytics process.

The claim objection has been addressed through the amendment above.

The section 112 rejection has been addressed through the amendment above.

Applicant traverses the section 102 and section 103 rejections.

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Poibeau discloses a system for extracting entities - i.e., people, places and things. Although Poibeau speaks of "relations, these are only formed between distinct entities to form (in combination) a new entity. For example, consider the sentence: "Frank sent the form to John Hancock." An entity extraction system might identify "John" as a person, and it might identify "Hancock" as a person, but by determining that there is a relation between these two terms, it could determine that "John Hancock" is itself a distinct entity representing an insurance company.

The present invention extracts multi-dimensional relational facts. The Poibeau document does not extract multi-dimensional relational facts as defined in the pending claims. The Poibeau document discloses only determining a relationship between entities. However, the invention of the pending application establishes a multi-dimensional relational fact with a plurality of attributes (such as who, what, why, when, where, etc.), and is not constrained to only determine such relational fact between entities.

Further, nothing in Poibeau concerns extraction of "role relationships" between entities as Applicant has claimed. By "role relationship" the inventors mean, for example, the fact that in the above sentence, Frank has the role of sender, John Hancock has the role of recipient, and the "form" is the thing sent and received.

It is also notable that Poibeau ordinarily would not be expected to extract "form" at all since that typically would not be thought of as a named entity. In contrast, the present invention extracts not only the two named entities, but also would extract "form" because it plays a role in the event described.

The present invention application extracts relational facts from data records containing mixed structured and unstructured data. The Poibeau application does not access a database that

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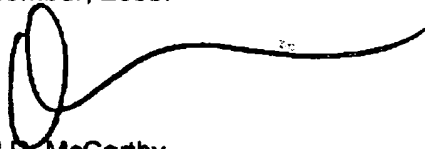
contains records of mixed structured and unstructured data. The Poibeau application only works with free text.

The present invention relates the relational facts to the structured data of the record from which the relational fact was extracted through an integration process. The Poibeau application does not extract relational facts from the unstructured data and relate them to the structured data. Again, the Poibeau application only works with free text.

Therefore, Poibeau does not anticipate the claims. As to the section 103 rejection, as Poibeau does not teach the claimed elements, a combination of Poibeau and Smith does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

For these reasons, withdrawal of each of the rejections is appropriate. Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of December, 2006.



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